

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 MC-02 TRSE-00 EA-07 OMB-01 /096 W
-----251959Z 041134 /44

R 251330Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9359
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0231

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, BC, RH

SUBJECT: PRC ARMS FOR BOTSWANA

REF: GABORONE 0001

1. DURING JANUARY 24 CALL, UK HICOM ELEANOR EMERY READ ME
TELEGRAM SHE HAD RECEIVED REPORTING ARRIVAL OF "SECOND SHIPMENT"
OF ARMS FROM PRC TO BOTSWANA. SHIPMENT REPORTEDLY ARRIVED IN
FRANCISTOWN LAST WEEK COMING BY ROAD FROM ZAMBIA. HER INFO
ID NOT INCLUDE AMOUNTS OR KINDS OF ARMS. DESTINATION OF THE ARMS
WAS ASSUMED TO BE POLICE MOBILE UNITS (PMU) WHICH ARE BEING
STRENGTHENED IN FRANCISTOWN AREA TO DEFEND AGAINST ALLEGED RHODESIAN
INCURSIONS.

2. COMMENT: MISS EMERY HAS AUTHORIZATION FROM LONDON TO
ASK GOB OFFICIALS ABOUT PRC ARMS ACQUISITION, PARTICULARLY IN
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VIEW OF CONTINUING UK EFFORTS TO HELP MEET GOB ARMS NEEDS.
(IN THIS CONNECTION SHE REPORTED THAT 300 OF THE 400 AUTOMATIC
RIFLES ORDERED FROM UK HAVE BEEN SHIPPED ON THE "CIT OF
CANBERRA" WHICH LEFT LONDON JANUARY 18). BECAUSE OF CHILLY
ATMOSPHERE FOLLOWING UK ABSTENTION IN UNSC ON BOTSWANA'S
COMPLAINT, HOWEVER, MISS EMERY SAID SHE DOES NOT CONSIDER THIS
AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO PRTBE GOB ON ARMS POLICY AND PLANNING.

IN THIS CONNECTION, ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT GOB OFFICIALS REMAIN
VERY TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT PRC ARMS. ONE RANKING OFFICIAL
IN THE PRESIDENCY TOLD DCM RECENTLY HE WAS "NOT AT LIBERTY TO SAY
ANYTHING" ABOUT THE SUBJECT. HOWEVER, ANOTHER SECURITY OFFICIAL
TOLD EMBTFF THAT IAN KHAMA (PRESIDENT'S SON) HAD INVITED HIM TO
LOOK OVER PRC ARMS.

NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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SAS ID: 3514204
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC ARMS FOR BOTSWANA
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, BC, RH
To: STATE
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